

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-5, 7-16, 18-27, 29-38 and 40-44 are pending herein. Claims 6, 17, 28 and 39 have been cancelled, and the subject matter of those claims has been added to claims 1, 12, 23 and 34, respectively. Claims 11, 22, 33 and 44 have been amended hereby to correct typographical errors only.

1. Applicants acknowledge that claims 3, 12-22, 24 and 34-44 have been withdrawn as being drawn to a non-elected species. It appears that the PTO should have referred to claim 2, as opposed to claim 3, since claim 3 was among the elected claims listed in the Response to Election of Species Requirement filed November 1, 2005. In any event, however, independent claim 12 includes all of the features of claim 1, and independent claim 34 includes all of the features of independent claim 23. In addition, claims 1 and 23 have been amended to incorporate claims 6 and 28, which the Examiner indicated would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Since claims 1 and 23 are allowable, and since claims 12 and 34 include the same features as recited in claims 1 and 23, respectively, the election requirement is deemed moot.

2. The §102/§103 rejections outlined on pages 2-5 of the Office Action are noted, but deemed moot in view of the fact that allowable dependent claims 6 and 28 have been added to independent claims 1 and 23, respectively. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of all grounds of rejection based on the applied references are respectfully requested.

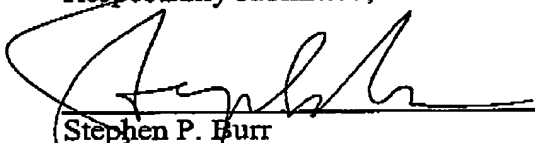
Applicants respectfully submit that this patent application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner deem that any further action by Applicants would be desirable in placing this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicants' undersigned representative.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1446.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date


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